

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No. 09/995, 097

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented): For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:

a brake; and

a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the brake;

whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the user to maintain balance;

wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least one wheel of the skate when actuated.

6. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled to the lifter.

7.-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe comprises fiber-reinforced elastomer.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the elastomer comprises urethane.

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No. 09/995, 097

12. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, comprising a return spring counteracting an upward pressing motion of the toe.
13. (previously presented): For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:
- a brake; and
 - a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the brake;
- whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the user to maintain balance;
- wherein the lifter is positioned above the toe forward of metatarsals of the foot of the user.
14. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.
15. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 14, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.
16. (canceled)

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No. 09/995, 097

17. (previously presented): For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:
- a brake; and
 - a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the brake;
- whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the user to maintain balance;
- wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe that is pivoted to rotate about an axle of a first wheel, so as to bear against a second wheel.
18. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.
19. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 17, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.
20. (new): The skate brake according to claim 18, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.
21. (new): The skate brake according to claim 19, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.
22. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is coupled to the lifter via a linkage.

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No. 09/995, 097

23. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled to the lifter.
24. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the brake shoe is coupled to the lifter via a linkage.
25. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 17, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled to the lifter.
26. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 17, wherein the brake shoe is coupled to the lifter via a linkage.
27. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the brake shoe comprises a portion of fiber-reinforced elastomer belt.